NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

1050 Stewart St, Room E1200 Las Cruces, NM 88003 Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 31, 2023

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 30, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With July coming to an end, New Mexico agriculture started to show signs of stress, as another week passed with no monsoon rains. Crop and livestock conditions worsened last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork, during which time green chiles, onions, and winter wheat were harvested. Wheat harvested for grain increased from 77 percent to 93 percent and looks to be on track to be completed in the coming week. Green chiles jumped from 4 percent harvested to 25 percent. Corn, cotton, and peanuts continued to develop slowly, and remained significantly behind previous year's progress. Most of New Mexico received some precipitation last week, according to NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, but amounts were minimal and varied, ranging from .01 inches to 1.5 inches. Cibola, Catron and Socorro Counties were the wettest, while the southeast corner of the State was dry all week. Reports from the field say that the rain had little benefit and areas of the State are starting to show signs of stress. Grasses in western Union County have gone dormant and nearly all crops are in worse condition than the previous week. Cotton and alfalfa have deteriorated the most. Cotton swung from 16 percent poor and 14 percent excellent, to 23 percent poor and 5 percent excellent. Alfalfa was at 6 percent poor and 25 percent excellent the previous week and dropped to 15 percent poor and 16 percent excellent. Peanuts continue to fare well. Across the State, daily temperatures rose above according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, ranging from 3-8 degrees hotter than historical averages. The hottest temperatures and bigger anomalies were in southwest New Mexico. High temperatures and high winds worsened the drought conditions across the State. At the beginning of July, over 55 percent of New Mexico was drought-free. Without any meaningful rainfall, that area has been decreasing each week and stood at just 13.6 percent last week according to the United States Drought Monitor. The abnormally dry category (D0) was up to 52.3 percent, moderate drought (D1) rose 14 percent to 25.8 percent, and severe drought (D2) increased to 8.2 percent. Despite worsening conditions, no part of the State was in extreme or exceptional drought last week. Pasture and range conditions reflected the high temperatures and lack of rain, with increases in the very poor and poor categories, and decreases in the good and excellent categories. Cattle and sheep were again in mostly fair to good condition. Wind damage to crops was reported as 14 percent light, up from 5 percent the week before. There was no reported hail damage. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 35 percent very short, 39 percent short, 24 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 31 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 30 percent adequate.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS					
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	
Alfalfa Hay					
2 nd cutting harvested	80	77	93		
3 rd cutting harvested	29	16	33	51	
Chiles					
Green harvested	25	4	9	9	
Corn					
Silked	23	5	51	44	
Cotton					
Squaring	38	24	63	73	
Onions					
Harvested	80	76	84	NA	
Peanuts					
Pegging	49	29	90	68	
Winter Wheat					
Harvested for grain	93	77	95	NA	

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELD WORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION					
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average	
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	6.6	5.8	6.5	
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	
Very short	¨ 27	" 23	" 17	27 <i>.</i>	
Short	45	39	44	42	
Adequate	28	37	37	30	
Surplus		1	2	1	
Subsoil moisture					
Very short	26	24	26	32	
Short	48	41	53	45	
Adequate	26	35	21	22	
Surplus				1	

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP	. LIVESTOCK.	PASTURE	AND RANGE	CONDITION
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Alfalfa hay Very poor.	Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
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NA – not available (--) – zero